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 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 City Engineer

*Date:* March 23, 2012

*To:* Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee

*From:* Nicole Losch

*Subject:* Accessibility Improvements Program

## Memo

At the March 12, 2012 meeting of the City Council, a resolution<sup>1</sup> was passed authorizing the city to apply to the downtown accessibility improvement assistance program. Through this assistance program, the Vermont Downtown Program and VTRANS are partnering on a new funding source for projects in the designated downtowns<sup>2</sup>. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has identified accessibility improvements of Vermont sidewalks as a priority within its Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The intent of this program is to provide technical, contracting and financial assistance to aid municipalities in bringing pedestrian facilities in the public right of way into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This will not be a typical grant program where funds are provided to the municipality, thus Burlington will not have to come up with matching funds or administer a grant. All activities of the grant will be conducted by VTrans.

Since the City Council meeting, project candidates were prioritized by interdepartmental working group with assistance from AARP. DPW staff then attended the meetings of the Church Street Marketplace Commission and the Public Works Commission to present our prioritization strategy; both Commissions were very supportive.

The City's application will be submitted on Monday, March 26, 2012. A summary of the prioritization process and the final application candidates will be provided at the TEUC meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> City Council Resolution

<sup>2</sup> Burlington's Designated Downtown

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY TO  
DOWNTOWN ACCESSIBILITY  
IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In the year Two Thousand Twelve.....  
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community  
Development created the Vermont Downtown Program (1998 Downtown Development Act),  
which provides a number of benefits, including tax credits, loans and grants from various state  
agencies to designated downtowns; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Development Act (24 V.S.A. Chap. 76A) provides various  
benefits for communities whose downtowns receive designation as Designated Downtown  
Districts, including income tax credits for rehabilitation of older or historic buildings,  
reallocation of sales tax receipts for building materials and financial assistance from various  
grant programs specifically for Designated Downtown Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Agency of Commerce & Community Development approved the  
expansion and renewal of Burlington's Designated Downtown in March 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington through the Office of the Mayor, the Church Street  
Marketplace Commission, the Community and Economic Development Office, Burlington City  
Arts, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works and the  
Department of Planning and Zoning in conjunction with the Burlington Business Association,  
desire to undertake a program of reinvestment in the City's downtown; and

33 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has submitted a renewal application to the Agency of  
34 Commerce & Community Development to renew Burlington's Designated Downtown on March  
35 26, 2012; and

36 WHEREAS, The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has identified  
37 accessibility improvements of Vermont sidewalks as a priority within its Bicycle and Pedestrian  
38 Program; and

39 WHEREAS, the intent of this program is to provide technical, contracting and financial  
40 assistance to aid municipalities in bringing pedestrian facilities in the public right of way in the  
41 Designated Downtown area into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

42 WHEREAS, due to the high concentration of pedestrian activity in Vermont's  
43 Downtowns, the program is initially being offered only to communities participating in the  
44 Vermont Designated Downtown program; and

45 WHEREAS, eligible Vermont Designated Downtown Accessibility Improvements  
46 Assistance program activities include correcting non-compliant curbs, ramps, pedestrian  
47 pushbuttons, sidewalks, bus shelters and median islands that are not accessible to meet current  
48 standards; and

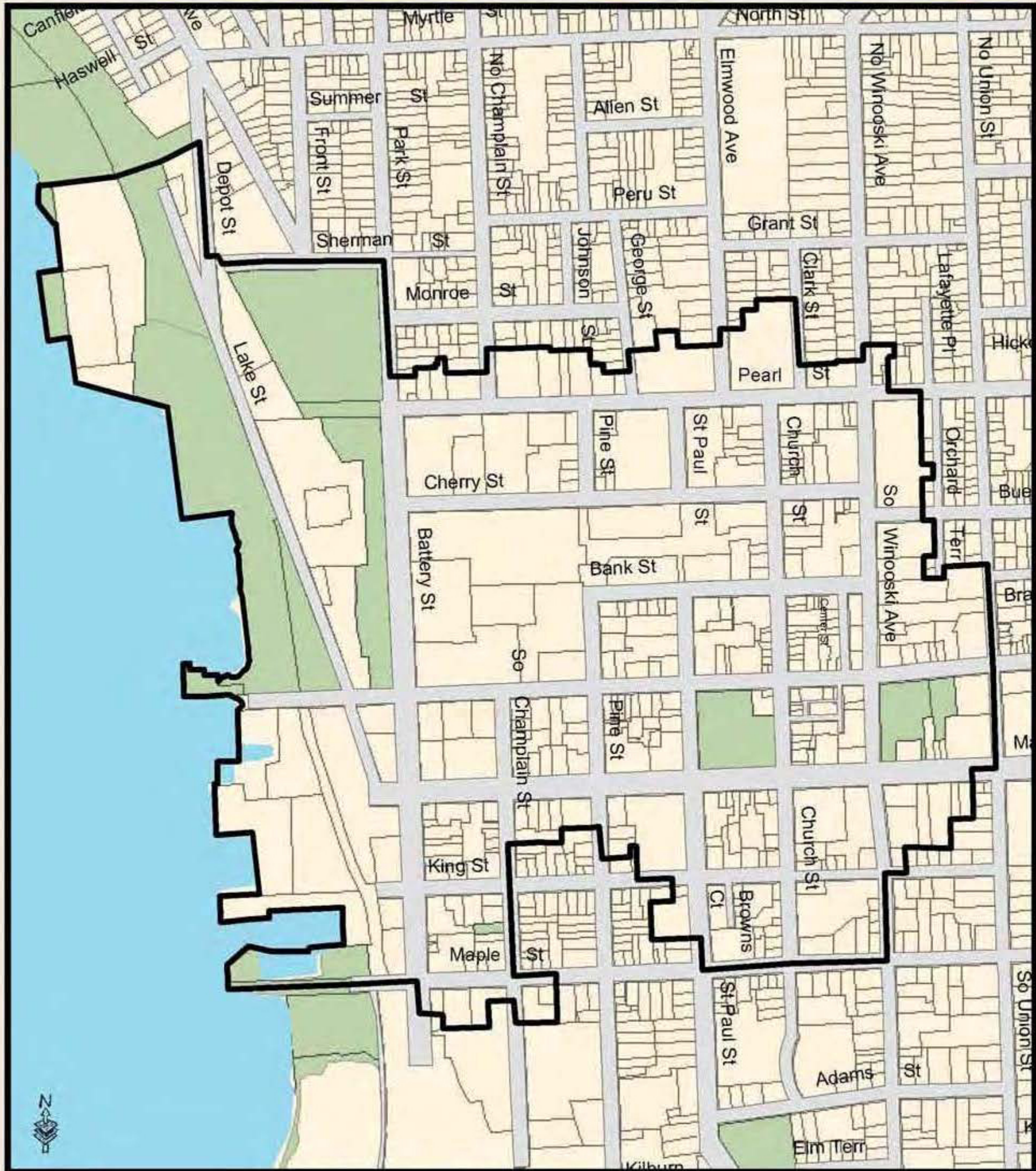
49 WHEREAS, given that this project is appropriate and in keeping with the revitalization  
50 goals of the Burlington's Downtown District and all other municipal plans, this additional benefit  
51 for Burlington's Downtown District should be sought.

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Mayor,  
53 through the Public Works Department in conjunction with the Community & Economic  
54 Development Office to submit a grant application for the Designated Downtown Accessibility  
55 Improvements Assistance program.



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# City of Burlington's Designated Downtown Development District



## Legend

-  Downtown Development District
-  Public Parkland

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000  
Feet



Map prepared by the Burlington Dept. of Planning & Zoning, 10 May 2004.